

# Fowey Rivers Association

## Newsletter December 2009

Welcome to the first annual newsletter of the FRA. I hope that you will enjoy reading it and that it will give you some idea of what the association is doing and why it is necessary to support it in order to continue to maintain and improve the excellent quality of the fishing. You will find reports of current activity including work to improve spawning gravels and other general improvements, and the hatchery, currently jointly supported by the FRA and the Camel clubs. All these projects need financial support in order to continue, and currently only exist because of the dedication of a few volunteers. Please support your river. Annual donations of a minimum of £10 would be much appreciated, either sent directly to the treasurer, or using the standing order form provided with this newsletter. Thank you in advance for your support. Tight lines

**Dr Bill Smith Chairman FRA**

### **WHERE ARE WE GOING?**

We need to focus the activity of the FRA and although we all know what we would like to achieve as individuals, we have never tried to put it all together for the FRA so that we all head in the same direction.

We would like to know what you would like us to achieve over the next five years. This may be to do with

- run sizes
- hatchery work for salmon and perhaps sea trout
- increasing the amount of spawning and nursery habitat.
- your own special project

We will organise an evening meeting during the close season to let everyone have their say and agree our new directions.

Please let us know what you think by email, letter or phone to  
Jon Evans, Polgeel, Polbrock, Washaway, Bodmin PL30 3AN  
01208 812447 07732 921015 [jonrevans@aol.com](mailto:jonrevans@aol.com)



## PAUL ELIOT 1947 - 2009

Paul Eliot died peacefully at home on 4th September after a heroic battle with cancer. Bravely borne took on a new meaning with Paul, when faced with the terminal news a few months ago promptly got out of his hospital bed and set off to beat a few of his lifetime coarse fishing bests. Naturally

he duly bettered his roach, rudd and carp records, though his lifetime tench got away.

This approach to life seemed to come naturally to Paul ever since he arrived to retire in Cornwall some 14 years ago. However Paul did not know the meaning of retiring, or sometimes even the meaning of impossible, as he quickly proved by personal demonstration. Many may only remember him for the building of the salmon hatchery at Wainsford over the past 10 years, however that was just a small part in his hectic daily schedule. After all there were cottages to be built, pools to be created, ponds to be dug, spawning beds to be constructed, and guests to be entertained. At Wainsford, Paul and his ever supportive wife Irene, plus his loyal band of cohorts, quickly established one of the Westcountrys' most attractive holiday destinations and Paul has taken great delight in seeing youngsters catching their first ever fish. The hatchery was soon under construction, and then expansion, and is now capable of producing a hundred thousand juvenile salmon a year, giving much improved sport to all anglers on both his adopted R. Fowey of which he was so passionate, and also on the nearby R. Camel. Paul was more aware than others that time is precious, and so his determination to crack on did not always fit snugly in those bureaucratic circles that govern our lives, which occasionally brought stress and frustration to his desired speed of progress. Luckily Paul possessed an abundance of humour plus a tinge of cunning, and he was able to carry on at a gallop, while others lagged behind. Fortunately space, and the fifth amendment, do not permit me to recount some of his many deeds and escapades, however suffice to say Paul achieved more in those short 14 years than most of us can dream of doing in a lifetime

TYSON JACKSON

## DRAYNES VALLEY

The ongoing R. Fowey restoration project resumed in June this year and continued until the end of September mainly organised by Rob Williams and myself from the Liskeard and Lostwithiel Angling Associations, We have cleared around 500 metres of River, removing trash dams, cow parsley and sand which has uncovered many potential areas of spawning gravel; this has already produced one sea trout redd. We have also cleared sand and cow parsley from the previously restored gravel bed's these have produced around forty countable redds per year since the year 2000 [about one million eggs deposited].



*Before and after at Carkeet, the site of our biggest redd*

Rob, Dixie, Stuart and I were at Draynes almost every Sunday, Each week we were joined by other volunteers, too many to mention by name [for fear of missing one]. Working parties varied between five and ten people resulting in at least 500 hours of work. Despite this we still have more fish than gravel to spawn in. We regularly count fifty or more redds but some gravel is used by more than one fish. We can only count them on one day, the most being forty seven, the average fish being around three pounds. This is about 140,000 thousand egg's per year. We hope this has contributed to the large increase of sea trout numbers in recent years. The photo's show the before and after at the site that produced the biggest redd we have had. There are redds and sea trout at Ninestones and Palmer's Bridge although the fish seemed to arrive very late. We had a Sunday morning walk in mid January and will arrange another for February. to see what spawning has taken place. Meet at 10.00 at the Draynes Car Park at Golitha.

CHRIS JANES

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**PARK PIT** Park Pit has been bought by SWW. The abstraction is limited by the need for the lake to be recharged annually so it will never be drained dry except under major drought conditions.

Under the terms of the agreement between SWW, the FRA and other partners, there will be a management group formed to oversee the environmental development of the site. One of the earliest projects is the construction of new spawning beds in the Trenant Stream. This stream runs round the western edge of the lake, and is one of the most prolific sea trout spawning streams within the catchment. The preliminary survey work has been concluded and the scheme should be undertaken in the summer of 2010. This will be carried out by EA staff with FRA help with the site preparation.

JON EVANS

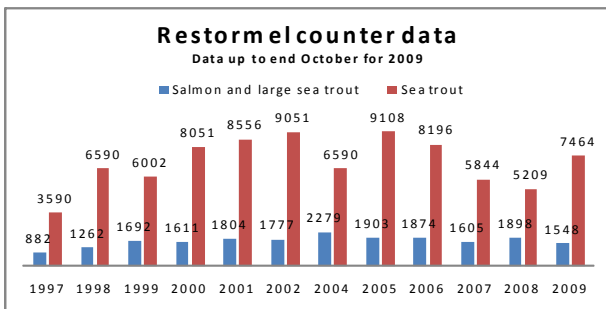
# HATCHERY

Wainsford hatchery has been developing well this winter season. Several improvements have taken place. The main ones have been the installation of an internal oxygen system for use whilst treating fish but more importantly, which now gives us the ability to go into "shut down" mode whilst the river is in full spate. Secondly the outside tanks which are used for growing on parr to smolts have had improvement works carried out. This has included a new drainage system and better access to the tanks themselves. We have also got the discharge consent from the EA.

The entire hatchery was spring cleaned in September and we now have an increased capacity for holding both broodstock and juveniles both for the Fowey and the Camel. The broodstock collection this year has been quite slow itself, mainly due to the fishing conditions that we have had. The good news is that the broodstock which we do have on site are in very good condition. This is due to a strict treatment regime targeting both fungal infection and general bacteria in the water. Two fish have stripped so far and fortunately it doesn't look like the others are too far behind!

I feel at this point that a thank you should be made to Jon Evans, Robbie Williams, Godfrey Tucker and Dave Johns for the time and effort which they have put into the hatchery maintenance this year.

JEFF ELIOT



FRA recommended  
Catch limits

Salmon  
1/day; 2/week; 5/season

Sea Trout  
4/day; all sea trout to be  
returned from  
1 September

**STOP PRESS:** Large redds, probably sea trout, have been found at Maidenwell on the Upper Warleggan on the FRA built spawning beds.

## Fowey Rivers Association

Chairman: Dr Bill Smith

Treasurer: Roger Brake

Secretary: Jon Evans

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Webcam:

[www.wainsford.com/fowey/live.php](http://www.wainsford.com/fowey/live.php)

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Account No.....

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Please pay on the .....(day) of.....(month).....(year)

and each month/year, thereafter, the sum of £....., until further notice.

To: Fowey Rivers Association

At: Barclays Bank plc  
Molesworth Street  
Wadebridge  
PL27 7XX

Account No: 40784370

Sort Code: 20-50-40

*This cancels any previous standing order paid under the same reference.*

SIGNED.....

DATE.....

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

The Treasurer, Fowey Rivers Association,  
Golden Bank, Nanstallon, Bodmin PL30 5LF

## Middle and Upper River Fowey and main tributaries

Redd building and gravel cleaning

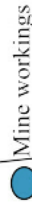
Not to scale



Hawkstor

Temple

New redds 2006 FRA



Mine workings

Maidenwell

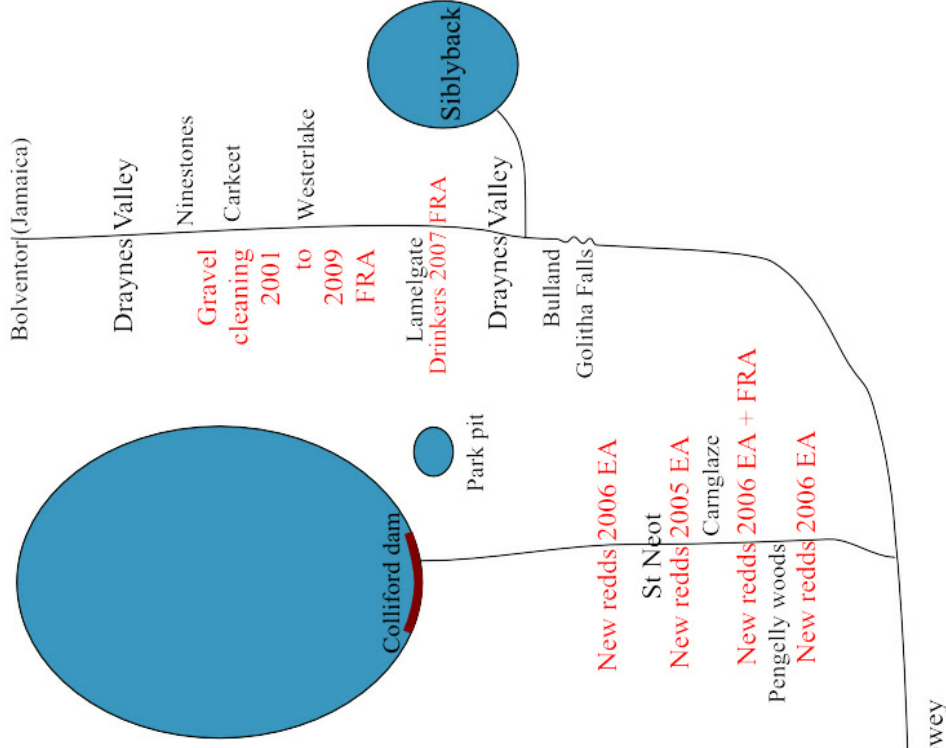
New redds 2007 FRA

New redds 2008 FRA

Cardinham

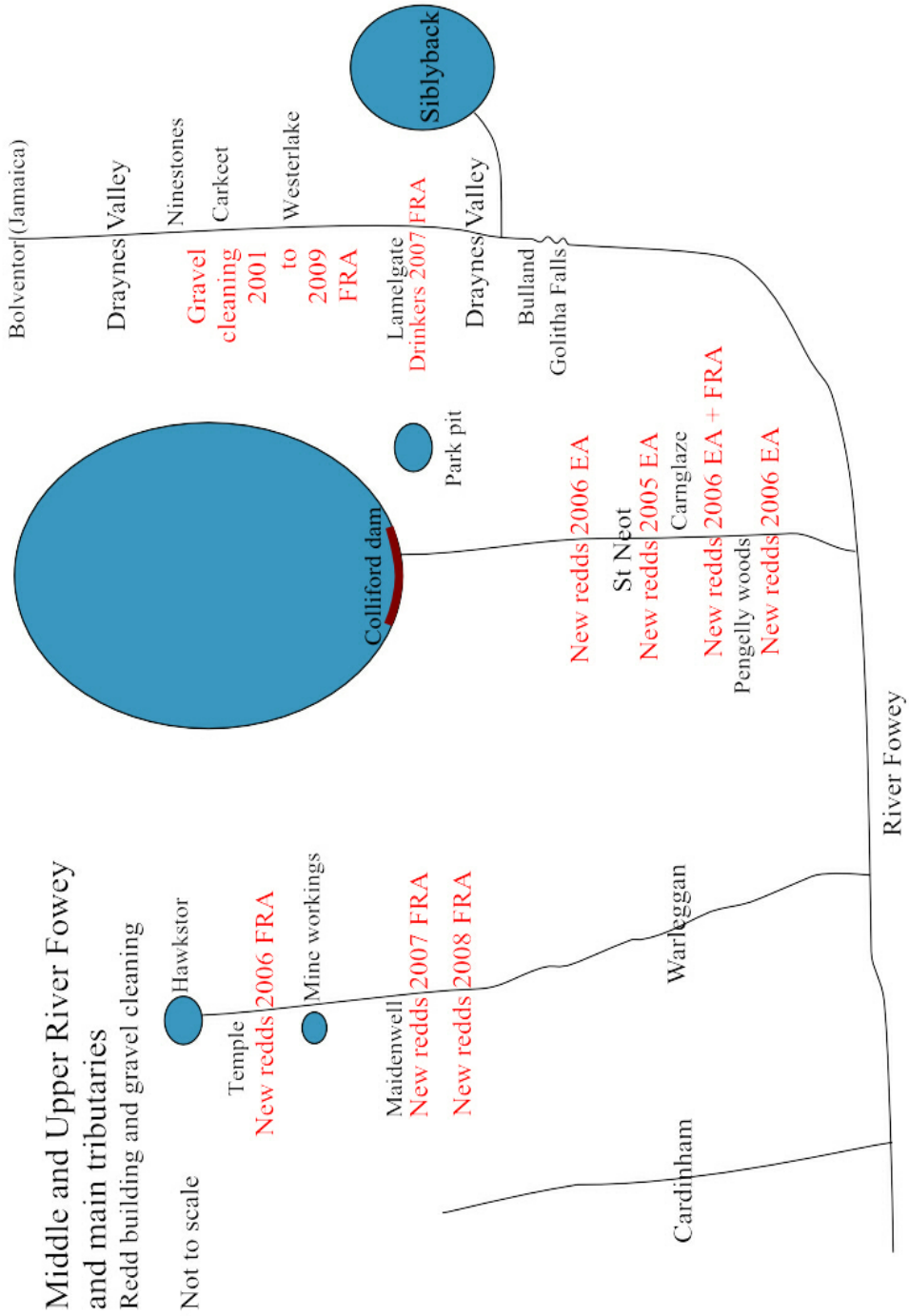
Warleggan

River Fowey



# Middle and Upper River Fowey and main tributaries

Redd building and gravel cleaning



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